

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01837 101821Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
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O 101739Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9293

UNCLAS MADRID 1837

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SP, US  
SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER REPORTS DELAYS OF VANCE, SUAREZ VISITS AIMED AT PRESERVING U.S. NEUTRALITY IN SPANISH ELECTIONS

REF: MADRID 1800

1. IN A FOLLOW-UP TO THE DIARIO 16 STORY (REFTEL), THE AFTERNOON INFORMACIONES MARCH 10 REPORTED THAT BOTH THE DELAY IN THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO MADRID AND THE USG DESIRE THAT PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ NOT VISIT WASHINGTON BEFORE JUNE OR JULY ARE AIMED AT PRESERVING USG NEUTRALITY IN THE UPCOMING SPANISH ELECTIONS BY AVOIDING A BOOST TO SUAREZ' PRESTIGE. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, FILED FROM NEW YORK BY FELIPE SAHAGUN, SPANISH POLITICAL GROUPS "PRESSURED" THE DEPARTMENT IN THIS SENSE.

2. A SUMMARY OF THE STORY'S PRINCIPAL POINTS:  
A) DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DECLARED MARCH 9 THAT THE SECRETARY "HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE TRIP" UNTIL THE END OF APRIL OR EARLY MAY. THE DELAY WOULD MEAN U.S. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING REQUIREMENT OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY.  
B) THE USG IS RELUCTANT TO RECEIVE SUAREZ BEFORE JULY.  
C) THUS IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION

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PAGE 02 MADRID 01837 101821Z

"DOES NOT WISH TO TAKE A STEP AT THIS TIME IN ITS RELATIONS WITH SPAIN WHICH COULD HELP ONE GROUP OR HURT ANOTHER IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS."  
D) THERE HAVE BEEN PRESSURES "FROM SOME SPANISH POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE DEPARTMENT SO THAT "WASHINGTON DOES NOT INFLUENCE, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS."  
E) THE NEW YORK TIMES THE PREVIOUS SUNDAY EDITORIALIZED THAT

THE SPANISH GOVT APPEARED TO HAVE DEFINITIVELY ABANDONED  
ITS NEUTRALITY. IN THE U.S. IT IS BELIEVED THAT A BROAD  
RANGE OF SPANISH POLITICAL PARTIES - "FROM THE SOCIALISTS TO  
ALIANZA POPULAR" - OPPOSES A PRE-ELECTION SUAREZ VISIT TO WASHINGTON.  
F) ANOTHER REASON GIVEN BY "SOME OFFICIALS" FOR THE DELAY  
IN THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IS A POSSIBLE CHANGE OF U.S. AMBASSADORS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009